

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

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USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2480

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, AG, US

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN REACTION TO SCHLESINGER COMMENTS

1. INITIAL ALGERIAN PRESS REACTION TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS, AT FIRST MUTED, HAS BECOME CHANNELED INTO COMMENTARY ON OVERALL CURRENT US OIL POLICY.

2. EDITORIAL MAY 20, RELEGATED TO PAGE 6 OF GOVERNMENT DAILY EL MOUDJAHID, COMMENTED CONDESCENDINGLY THAT SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CURRENT POLITICAL REALITIES AND WERE BASED ON "IMPRUDENCE AND UNPARDONABLE ERROR." REMAINDER OF COMMENTARY HIGHLIGHTED "THREAT" TO NORTH KOREA AND IN MIDDLE EAST.

3. EDITORIAL MAY 21, ENTITLED "THE REPETITION OF A
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SCENARIO," PLACES SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS IN

CONTEXT OF PARIS OECD SESSION. THEME OF EDITORIAL IS THAT SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT RESEMBLE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SIMILAR REMARKS PRIOR TO PREVIOUS IEA MEETING IN THAT THEY REPRESENT ATTEMPT TO CREATE "EMBARGO PSYCHOSIS" IN ORDER TO REINFORCE US "HEGEMONY" OVER EUROPE AS PART OF "US ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL STRATEGY TO REDUCE COMMERCIAL COMPETITION FROM THEIR ATLANTIC PARTNERS."

4. EDITORIAL STATES IN PART: "AT MOMENT WHEN IT APPEARED THAT US WOULD BE 'PREPARED' TO RELAUNCH PARIS PREPARATORY CONFERENCE, THIS NEW WARNING TO ARAB COUNTRIES COMES FROM... DELIBERATE WILL TO BLOCK ANY NEW MEETING BETWEEN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH DOESN'T USE AS ITS ONLY BASE NEW AMERICAN SUGGESTIONS. THESE, MISREPRESENTED AS FLEXIBILITY IN US POSITION, AGREE TO DISCUSS RAW MATERIALS AS WELL AS OIL BUT ONLY IN 'APPROPRIATE CONTEXT', THUS MAKING IT CLEAR AMERICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT DIGESTED THE INITIATIVES OF OTHER PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY FRANCE, TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THAT THEY ARE DETERMINED NOT TO LET THEM OFF THE RESERVATION."

5. EDITORIAL SETS OUT TWO US GOALS: TO AVOID NEW PRICE INCREASE IN OIL AND TO DEMONSTRATE TO ITS WESTERN PARTNERS THAT US POWER IS SOLE GUARANTEE OF THEIR INTERESTS.

6. COMMENT: ALGERIAN APPROACH REPRESENTS CONTINUATION OF CAMPAIGN TO DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN US AND ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS (ALGIERS 1060). RELEGATION OF COMMENT TO BACK PAGES AND COMPARATIVELY LOW RHETORICAL LEVEL PRESUMABLY RESULT OF CURRENT PREOCCUPATION OF HIGH LEVELS WITH NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS. FROM BOUMEDIENE'S OWN COMMENT TO US VISITORS ABOUT PAST SIMILAR STATEMENTS, WE CAN BE SURE SCHLESINGER'S COMMENTS HAVE BEEN NOTED AND THAT THEY WILL BE REFERRED TO ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS AS EVIDENCE OUR IMPERIALIST TENDENCIES. CONTINUED COMMENTARY ABOUT MILITARY INTERVENTION OPTION WILL, OF COURSE, ADD TO BOUMEDIENE'S CONVICTION WE REMAIN DEVOTED TO BIG STICK IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. PARKER

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